

Serial No. 10/083,656 filed February 25, 2002
Amendment dated January 18, 2007
Response to Office Action of August 10, 2006

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a no-spill drinking apparatus, said apparatus comprising a valve, said valve comprising a post and a flexible material, said flexible material comprising an opening, said post extending into said opening, said valve having a closed position and in an open position,
said closed position being a configuration in which liquid is blocked from passage through said opening,
said open position being a configuration in which liquid can pass through said opening,
wherein said valve moves from said closed position to said open position upon application of negative pressure to said flexible material, and wherein said flexible material begins to invert upon said application of negative pressure to said flexible material.
2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said post is at least partially tapered.
3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises a cap for a cup, said cap comprising a soft spout.
4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises a hard cup.
5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises an anti-inversion member.

Claims 6-27 (canceled)

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28. (Previously Presented) A apparatus, comprising:

(a) a no-spill drinking apparatus, said apparatus comprising a cap and a cup, said cap being attachable to said cup and detachable from said cup, said cap comprising a spout;

(b) a valve, said valve comprising a flexible material having an opening, said valve further comprising a post, said post extending into said opening, said valve having a closed position and an open position, wherein liquid is blocked from passing through said opening and through said spout when said valve is in said closed position;

(c) a valve holder which holds said flexible material, said valve holder being attachable to said cap and separable from said cap;

(d) an air vent; and,

(e) a valve subunit;

(f) wherein said apparatus is configured such that application of negative pressure through said spout causes said flexible material to move, with said opening of said flexible material moving along said post toward said spout, such that liquid passes through said opening and out of said spout, and air passes into said apparatus through said vent; and,

(g) wherein upon said application of said negative pressure, said flexible material hits said valve subunit.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said flexible material begins to invert upon said application of negative pressure.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said flexible material inverts upon said application of negative pressure.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said opening is a hole.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said air vent comprises an opening and wherein said opening of said air vent is smaller than said opening of said flexible material of said valve.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said air vent is closed

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before drinking, and opens during drinking.

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said air vent opens for passage of air through said air vent upon said application of negative pressure.
35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said air vent comprises an opening, said opening of said air vent being an opening in a flexible material.
36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein air vent comprises an opening, said opening of said air vent being an opening in a flexible material, said opening of said air vent being in a separate flexible material from said flexible material through which passes liquid.
37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein liquid passes through said valve holder when the person drinks from said spout.
38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said valve holder and said cap are dimensioned such that said valve holder fits snugly into said cap.
39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said post has a greater diameter at its bottom than at its top.
40. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said post extends tightly through said opening in said closed position.
41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein cups of different sizes are configured for interchangeable attachment to said cap.
42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said cap is provided with screw threads, such that said cap can be screwed onto and off of the cup.
43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said cup is a hard cup.
44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said cap is further provided with finger grips on the outside of said cap to facilitate screwing of said cap on and off of said cup.
45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said application of negative pressure causes a flexible material to move to open said air vent.

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46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said flexible material comprises the shape of a bowl.
47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said flexible material comprises the shape of a bowl, said bowl having a rim and a bottom, said bottom moving both toward said rim and toward said spout upon said application of negative pressure.
48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
- (a) a no-spill drinking apparatus, said apparatus comprising a cap and a cup, said cap being attachable to said cup and detachable from said cup, said cap comprising a spout;
 - (b) a valve, said valve comprising a flexible material having an opening, said valve further comprising a post, said post extending into said opening, said valve having a closed position and an open position, wherein liquid is blocked from passing through said opening and through said spout when said valve is in said closed position;
 - (c) a valve holder which holds said flexible material, said valve holder being attachable to said cap and separable from said cap;
 - (d) an air vent, said air vent comprising an opening; and,
 - (e) a valve subunit;
 - (f) wherein said apparatus is configured such that application of negative pressure through said spout causes said flexible material to move, with said opening of said flexible material moving along said post toward said spout, such that liquid passes through said opening and out of said spout, and air passes into said apparatus through said vent;
 - (g) wherein said air vent is closed when said valve is in said closed position, and said air vent opens upon said application of negative pressure through said spout;
 - (h) said valve subunit being at a sufficiently close distance to said flexible material such that upon said application of negative pressure said flexible material will hit said valve subunit.

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49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said flexible material begins to invert upon said application of negative pressure.
50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said flexible material inverts upon said application of negative pressure.
51. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said opening is a hole.
52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said air vent comprises an opening and wherein said opening of said air vent is smaller than said opening of said flexible material of said valve.
53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said air vent comprises an opening, and wherein said opening of said air vent is an opening in a flexible material.
54. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said opening of said air vent is an opening in a flexible material, said opening of said air vent being in a separate flexible material from said flexible material through which passes liquid.
55. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein liquid passes through said valve holder when the person drinks from said spout.
56. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said valve holder and said cap are dimensioned such that said valve holder fits snugly into said cap.
57. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said post has a greater diameter at its bottom than at its top.
58. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said post extends tightly through said opening in said closed position.
59. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein cups of different sizes are configured for interchangeable attachment to said cap.
60. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said cap is provided with screw threads, such that said cap can be screwed onto and off of the cup.
61. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said cup is a hard cup.
62. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said cap is further

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provided with finger grips on the outside of said cap to facilitate screwing of said cap on and off of said cup.

63. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said application of negative pressure causes a flexible material to move to open said air vent.
64. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said flexible material comprises the shape of a bowl.
65. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said flexible material comprises the shape of a bowl, said bowl having a rim and a bottom, said bottom moving both toward said rim and toward said spout upon said application of negative pressure.
66. (New) A no-spill drinking apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said opening is against a center stop in said closed position.
67. (New) A no-spill drinking apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said opening is against a center stop in said closed position.
68. (New) A no-spill drinking apparatus as claimed in claim 48, wherein said opening is against a center stop in said closed position.